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teams was too big an affair to handle in one corral. So some fifty wagons started off in June, I think, and the remainder left Woodbine about the 1st of July, I think. Anyhow we crossed the Missouri River at Plattsmouth on the 4th of July, 1865, as I well remember the celebration going on that day as we were crossing.

We made a start from Plattsmouth with only forty-eight wagons in our section leaving a number behind for some reason unknown to me.

At Fort Kearney, as we were a party of about fifty, one wagon-master got a commission or permission to go on through the Indian country, as part of Colorado was called at that time. All being well armed it was considered safe, but smaller groups were kept at Fort Kearney until there were enough together to traverse the country with safety. After having delivered our corn at Denver and taken on a quantity of sawn lumber from some point not far off, which we delivered at Julesburg, we returned again by the Platte river to Omaha in October and learned when we got there that some twenty-three miles of the Union Pacific track was laid.

I came right on to Scotland, after spending a few days with my aunt at Woodbine, my cousin Daniel M. Kinnis who is still resident in Woodbine, and I walking from Council Bluffs rather than wait for the stage coach to Woodbine after leaving camp.

Yours sincerely,

D. M. SCOTT.

Edgar R. Harlan, Curator, State Historical Department, Des Moines, Iowa.

NOTES.

Hon. Thomas H. Carter, of Montana, who died in Washington. D. C., September 17th, was from 1877 to 1882 a resident of Burlington Iowa.

We have published a volume entitled, *Rafinesque, a Sketch of his Life with a Bibliography*, by T. J. Fitzpatrick, M.S., which we review elsewhere. C. S. Rafinesque distinguished himself in many lines of intellectual activity. His investigations and writings on natural history topics of the Mississippi Valley as early as 1820, give him interest to us. The widely-scattered information concerning him and especially his publications, gives Prof. Fitzpatrick's work great value.

The late Hon. Eugene F. Ware, "Ironquill," of Kansas, spent his young manhood in Iowa. He attended school at Burlington, enlisted in Company E, First Iowa Infantry, Company L, Fourth Iowa Cavalry, and was mustered out as captain of Company F, Seventh Iowa Cavalry. He was a distinguished lawyer and writer and was United States pension commissioner from May 10, 1902, to January 1, 1905.

The Wachsmuth and Springer collection of crinoidae at Burlington, has been sent to the Smithsonian Institution. This, with the writings of Charles Wachsmuth and Hon. Frank Springer, form the most important aggregation of material on the subject known to science. The specimens were mostly collected in the vicinity of Burlington, Iowa, and no Iowa institution was regarded as equipped for its appropriate care by Mr. Springer, who was the sole owner after the death of Mr. Wachsmuth.

We have received from Mr. W. D. Christy of Des Moines, the hand-made silk flag presented by the ladies of Des Moines to Company D, Second Iowa Volunteer Infantry. After the war it was the custom to place a star and a fragment of the flag, already riddled by bullets and torn by four years' use, in the casket of each member of the Company who died. The dilapidated folds and depleted field appealed to the survivors so that they abandoned the custom, and deposited this most precious memento in the Historical Department for permanent preservation.

In July a committee of the Iowa Society Daughters of the American Revolution and the Curator of the State Historical Department at Des Moines made a trip by automobile from Council Bluffs to Keokuk for the purpose of learning to what extent the marks of the old Mormon Trail are visible. The party were guests of Mrs. H. R. Howell of Des Moines, Regent-elect of the Iowa Society. The excursion was of very great interest and will be made the subject of official report by the D. A. R. committee and of a special article in the *ANNALS* by the Curator.

MUSEUM.

There have been recently mounted and placed on exhibition a number of valuable additions to our museum of natural history of Iowa. They include the following: Six groups of mammals, with their habitats, containing twenty-six specimens: northern fox squirrel; cotton-tail rabbit; striped gopher; chipmunk; meadow vole; prairie mole. Also twelve groups of birds with their nests and eggs in natural environment, containing thirty-eight specimens: yellow-billed cuckoo; kingbird; chickadee; mallard; rose-breasted grosbeak; Baltimore oriole; western meadow-lark; red-winged blackbird; yellow-headed blackbird; yellow warbler; western house wren; Wilson snipe.

NEWSPAPERS.

Newspapers have been received by gift as follows: From Mr. W. H. Woolston, Des Moines, a rare volume of the Boston Weekly Messenger, June 8, 1820-May 31, 1821, edited by Nathan Hale, nephew of the patriot. The volume is indexed and contains many timely articles on Indian affairs; an account of a State convention at St. Louis, Mo., which voted to form a constitution and State government; a description of the country about Council Bluffs with mention of herds of buffalo and a letter from a member of the U. S. troops at Council Bluffs, giving an account of conditions there.

Also there was received by gift from the children of the late Mark Miller of Des Moines, a pioneer agricultural editor, odd numbers of his different publications, including the Racine-Wisconsin and Iowa Farmer, 1849, 1852-55; the Dubuque Northwestern Farmer, 1860; Des Moines and Leavenworth-Western Pomologist. A complete first volume of the Des Moines-Iowa Homestead is a valuable addition to our already good collection of early agricultural papers. Harper's Weekly for 1877 fills a blank in our set. A volume of the DeWitt Standard, December 1, 1858-November 23, 1859, has also been received.

LIBRARY.

The Historical Department has a large collection of books on the Civil war. Besides the Roster of Iowa Soldiers and histories of Iowa regiments, we have forty-six volumes of Michigan regimental histories; Records of Men and Regiments of New Jersey in the Civil War; Muster Roll of New York State Volunteers; North Carolina Regiments; Roster of Ohio Soldiers, and History of Pennsylvania Volunteers. During the months of July, August and September, books of this character were added as follows: History of the First Brigade, New Jersey Volunteers from 1861-1865, by Camille Bequet; McDowell and Tyler in the Battle of Bull Run, by William Locke; Account of the Escape of Six Federal Soldiers from the Prison at Danville, Va., by W. H. Newlin; Battle of Shiloh, by Joseph W. Rich; Fifth Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, by Alfred S. Roe; Second Iowa Veteran Cavalry Association; Seventh, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Annual Reunions.

Other books of interest added are: Cram's Universal Atlas of the World, New Century Edition; National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Lineage books, v. 27, 28, 29, 30, 32; Sons of the American Revolution, Yearbook for 1910; Personal Recollections of Lincoln, by General Grenville M. Dodge.

RESIGNATION OF MR. VAN HYNING.

Mr. Thompson Van Hyning, who was appointed as taxidermist in 1902, continued as museum assistant after the position was altered in title to assistant curator, and from that time has been in the constant service of the State as an employe in the State Historical Department, tendered his resignation to the Curator on September 24th, to be effective October 1st. The resignation was accepted and the appointment of Joseph Steppan, an expert taxidermist and museum worker has been made. Mr. Steppan is an Austrian by birth, was in 1870 in the employ of the Crown Prince of Austria in African explorations and in museum collecting. Later he was in similar service with the Royal Museum at Rotterdam. Since his removal to America he has been engaged in commercial enterprise, but in the past has mounted much work for Chicago museums and assisted Col. Ackley for a time before his removal from Chicago.

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